The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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We believe easily what we fear or what we desire.—La Fontaien.

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CAN BANANAS GROW IN GREENLAND?

An eastern writer who opposes the A. F. of L. non-partisan political program insists that if this policy is correct, the British and European labor parties are wrong, and that if they are right, the American policy is wrong.

This is catchy reasoning.

The historic, social, economic and political background of the United States and England, for instance, makes it impossible to compare workers' tactics. These backgrounds can not be swept away or ignored by resolutions, oratory or pious hopes.

The American tradition and viewpoint—socially, industrially and politically—differ in many respects from those of England.

England historically has faith in government to solve all of a people's problems. This country was founded by men who rejected that concept and who weaved into the life of America the theory that "the best governed people are the least governed."

Political parties did not exist when this country was founded. Washington warned of their menace. They developed later and for 75 years partisan frenzy was high. The pendulum is swinging the other way and now party discipline and enthusiasm are at their lowest ebb.

Men flaunt party lines, and in the national Senate is witnessed the phenomena of individuals elected on one party ticket joining with men of the other party to defeat their own party.

This differs from the European bloc system, where an entire political group, rather than individuals in that group, line up with other groups.

England is a compact area of 58,000 square miles, with one language, one national ideal, one common tradition.

The immense area of the United States can not be compared with any other portion of the world.

The distance between the two oceans is as far as from London to New York. In this far flung territory is found every race, language and characteristic under the sun. There are sections larger than the whole of England where trade unionism is unknown.

In England and Europe the class line, based on birth, is distinct. Even the best garb of the working class is proof of its rank.

To say that under these conditions, so unknown to America, that American trade unionists should adopt English workers' tactics, or that English workers should adopt American tactics is to say that bananas can grow in Greenland.

Power Trust Probe Brings Results; Utilities' Defender Changes Front

New York, Aug. 11.—The Federal Trade Commission's expose of power trust methods has forced the Electrical World to reverse its position.

The Electrical World is spokesman for the power industry. When the commission started its probe this magazine foamed its protests, as when the Teapot Dome probe was launched.

Last June the Electrical World bemoaned that "the great national game of a certain group of citizens is to investigate private business. The specialists in free speech hover like vultures above private corporations only. War has been declared about publicity, about business, against economic education, against addresses by business men and against every legitimate tool of free speech that does not conform to opinions of the self-constituted 'free speech' cult which dwells as a parasite on the makers of national prosperity. Justice may in the end prevail, but meanwhile innocent persons are being maligned and an outstanding and public-spirited industry smeared with the vilest calumny. Must this be endured in the United States? Is there none to say, 'Enough of this malicious misrepresentation.'"

The Federal Trade Commission continued its probe despite this time-worn plea to be let alone, and now the Electrical World changes front.

It calls on the industry to question the usefulness of its publicity bureaus which it defended but a few weeks ago.

"With its propaganda gone conspicuously sour," this magazine pleads, "should the power companies continue to flood the country with self-praise in the form of news stories and reprinted speeches. As a good influence the public utility information has failed and the time has come for the industry to turn away from the artificial measures of indirection and put its reliance upon the quality of its service and the building of its market by straightforward selling."

The above would seem that the power trust magnates are about to call off attempts to control education, newspapers and public officials, and to silence everyone who would even discuss government ownership of these utilities.

WAGES LAW DIFFERS FROM PRICE CONTROL

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 11.—There is no similarity between a minimum wage set by law and control of commodity prices, said Professor C. R. Fay of the University of Toronto, in speaking at the Institute of Politics.

"Price control may in principle be the same as minimum wage control, but it is very different in operation," said Professor Fay. "Minimum wage legislation does not result in these days an avalanche of new labor supply, but guaranteed minimum price must create new supply."

$98,000,000 HELD BY 28 LABOR BANKS

Princeton, N. J., Aug. 11.—Twenty-eight labor banks in the United States had a total capitalization of $7,437,500 last June. The figures were compiled by the Industrial Relations Section of Princeton University. Deposits in the banks were $98,166,834, and total resources were $114,717,673.

The largest bank—$21,168,585—were reported by the Federation Bank and Trust Company, New York. Peter J. Brady is president of the Photo-to-Engravers' Union and well known member of organized labor, is president of this bank.

The Engineers' National Bank of Cleveland reported the next largest resources, $20,154,680.

INJURED CHILDREN CAN'T GET BENEFITS

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 11.—Hundreds of children in this State, who are injured, do not receive compensation benefits because they are illegally employed.

There were 4,186 accidents to minors under 18 years of age reported to State officials last year. Special investigations of 515, or 12 per cent, of these accidents disclosed because some type of illegal employment was indicated on the accident report. In 258, or 50 per cent of these cases, the minors were found to be employed in violation of the child labor law.

Under the law these children are debarred from compensation benefits.

CLERICAL WORKERS GAIN IN NAVY YARDS

Washington, Aug. 11.—President Coolidge approved increased pay for clerical employees of navy yards and stations in the United States and Hawaii. The increase affects 6,400 employes and ranges from $60 to $400 a year.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Frankfort, Ky., Aug. 11.—The annual convention of the State Federation of Labor will convene in the State Capitol on Monday, September 17.

The unionists will consider pending indictments against officials of the Federation for "pernicious lobbying." They are charged with violating a state law.

OHIO UNIONISTS TO MEET

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 11.—Officers of the State Federation of Labor have issued the call for the annual convention which will be held in this city beginning Monday, September 17.

WORKERS DOWN SOUTH ARE NOT "CONTENTED"

Greensboro, N. C., Aug. 11.—Speakers at a trade union mass meeting in this city denounced "the dishonest propaganda that industry is moving South, where labor is so docile, so cheap and so unorganized that it is unwilling to listen to the labor agitator."

This, the unionists declared, "is an insult to the intelligence of southern workers.

"Never in the history of the South has there been such a movement as the present one," said one speaker. "There is a general awakening of labor organizations. In Winston-Salem especially, where the anti-union Reynolds Tobacco Company is located, there is much activity. In Durham the same is true. Progressive people throughout the Carolinas are taking a new interest in trade unionism.

Low wages, long hours, wretched work conditions, "yellow dog" contracts and the company "union" are developing this unrest.

TO HONOR GOMPERS

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 11.—Next January has been decided by the A. F. of L. Executive Council as the month in which a call will be made for contributions from A. F. of L. affiliates to the Gompers memorial fund.

The last Congress passed legislation setting aside a park for the monument, near the A. F. of L. Building, in Washington.

LABOR ROUTS OLD-TIME FOE; GARRETT OUT OF CONGRESS

Washington, Aug. 11.—The political scalp of Congressman Finis J. Garrett dangles from the belt of Tennessee organized labor.

A. F. of L. officials and the railroad brotherhoods have fought Garrett for years. Two years ago he won by a close vote. This year he concluded to trust to the entire state and contested with Senator McKellar for the senatorial nomination. He was defeated by a two-to-one vote.

Garrett has been a Congressman for 22 years. He is one of the outstanding reactionaries in the House, and because of his position as minority leader he has been an aid to forces that opposed remedial legislation.

In urging Tennessee workers and citizens generally to defeat Garrett, President Green pointed out that he sponsored a proposal that would make it impossible to amend the Federal Constitution.

"Every important measure in the interest of labor that has been introduced in the House was fought by him," said Mr. Green.

"He opposed a $3 minimum wage for Federal employes; opposed vocational rehabilitation of persons injured in commerce, agriculture and industry; would exclude organized labor from the benefits of a Federal retirement law; favored the 12-hour day for sailors, water-tenders and firemen on Great Lakes' vessels; opposed a compensation act for the District of Columbia; voted against legislation that would protect children in industry, and voted against all legislation proposed by railroad employes."

Senator McKellar, Garrett's successful opponent, is classed by labor as one of the leading progressives in Congress.

WHY LABOR OPPOSES COMMUNISTS

Organized labor's opposition to the Communists is as logical as opposition to Mussolini's theory of government.

Communists—and by this is not meant sentimentalists—have a contempt for workers. Those are considered "cannon fodder," just as they were by Prussian militarists. Their one value is to be inoculated with class hate and a revolutionary spirit that will be capitalized by Communist leaders.

The Communists' position was frankly explained by W. Z. Foster, when he declared in March, 1922, issue of Labor Herald, published by the Trade Union Educational League, that "the fate of all labor organizations in every country depends primarily upon the activities of a minute minority of clear-sighted, enthusiastic militants scattered throughout the great organized masses of sluggish workers."

"These live spirits are the natural head of the working class, the driving force of the labor movement. They are the only ones who really understand what the labor struggle means and who have practical plans for its prosecution," said Foster.

Communists are rarely so uncautious. They do not reveal their autocratic ideals and their contempt for the masses of workers.

Trade unionists believe progress comes as workers are organized and educated. The "reds" reject this theory. They believe a few self-elected men are "the natural head of the working class."

MUDDYING THE WATERS

The Wall Street Journal approves the "yellow dog" contract enforced on Seattle public school teachers.

Speaking of the American Federation of Teachers, this authority on finance assures us:

"* * * the objects of the American Teachers' Union are bluntly personal—employment regardless of fitness, high salaries, pensions out of the public pocket, promotions by rote and all the rest of that deadening inefficiency which such organizations bring about.

"If the power to unionize were conceded the taxpayer would lose control of his own school system and his representation by electing directors would at once become meaningless."

Newspapers in no other nation would print such stuff. Only in America is the purposes of organized labor misrepresented by those who pose as "molders of public opinion." Their stock in trade is cuttle-fish tactics of muddying the waters.

Organized public school teachers ask a voice in educating the youth, because they are experts in this work. It is more reasonable to suppose they can handle this job better than politicians, who are selected as school directors and who are interested in securing contracts for the business groups that back them. These include building contractors, supply men, real estate brokers and book publishers.

The education of youth by school directors in many cities is a side line. It is stage scenery for a purpose unknown to the average American parent.

This is the system financial authorities would continue. They would make the schools a part of their program, just as the public utilities recently attempted.

TOO MUCH HUDDLING; CITIES MUST SPREAD

New York, Aug. 11.—The huddling of apartments in closely arranged phalanx has reached its climax, according to W. Burke Harmon, president of one of the largest real estate concerns in the country. The next generation will see cities expanded over territory now regarded as strictly suburban, he said.

"Centralization of development, whether it be apartment houses, commercial construction or any other type of development, can not be continued because of the great influx of population and growth of cities generally. The individual house will be popular as a consequence. People are pouring from the congested sections a stream undreamed of, with the result that the bulk of the country's population will be urban rather than rural in a few decades."

TEACHERS WIN PAY RAISE

Atlanta, Aug. 11.—Teachers in Fulton county schools secured a pay raise through the activity of the local Federation of Trades.

PRISON LABOR METHOD EXPOSED BY UNIONIST

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 11.—John C. Lewis, president Iowa Federation of Labor, refused to appear before the State Board of Control and testify on charges he makes against the board's violating the prison contract labor law. The unionist was denied a lawyer and a stenographer. The proceedings were to be secret.

Lewis must now pay for daring to disobey these autocrats, who have filed contempt charges against him in Judge Lester Thompson's court.

The board ignored the prison contract law and "rented out" several hundred convicts to the Deaborn Company of Chicago.

Organized labor, led by President Lewis, opened a campaign on the board and the issue will be a prominent one before the next state legislature.

REJECT OLD CONTRACT

Toronto, Aug. 11.—Organized street car employes rejected the company's offer to renew their present agreement. The vote was 1,633 to 677.

STATE ARBITRATORS UPHOLD UNIONS' PLEA

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 11.—Congress should prohibit contractors on Federal buildings from importing cheap labor to break down living standards, declared Governor Hammill's board of arbitration in the dispute between local trade unionists and A. C. Samford, contractor on the new Federal court building.

The award upholds the unionists' charge that Samford took advantage of depressed business conditions and imported cheap labor.

The arbitrators call on the Federal government to adopt a rule under which a contractor on government construction be made to comply with local labor conditions. Failure to comply with such rule shall bar the offending party from future contracts.

EMPLOYERS LAUD FLINTS' CHIEF WHO IS CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 11.—William P. Clarke, president of the American Flint Glass Workers' Union, has contested with employers in conferences for 25 years to secure better work conditions.

Clark is a candidate for Congress on the Democratic ticket, and the manufacturers have broken all precedents by declaring that the trade unionist's fairness, his knowledge of social conditions and his fighting qualities equip him for a seat in the national House of Representatives.

This unusual action was taken by the National Association of Manufacturers of Pressed and Blown Glassware at their recent meeting in Atlantic City.

"Because of our intimate knowledge of his ability gained through 25 years' association; the experience that has been his; his unquestioned honesty, courage and sound judgment," the manufacturers say, "we cheerfully and heartily commend his candidacy to the citizens of the Ninth Ohio Congressional district."

TRADE UNIONS NEEDED WITH ANY UTILITY PLAN

Portland, Ore., Aug. 11.—The millenium will not dawn for labor if public utilities are operated by the government, according to a letter received by Robert Clayton, business agent of Electrical Workers' Union No. 125, from C. W. Roberts, Winnipeg member of that craft.

Roberts does not condemn municipal ownership, but he indicates that workers must fight for conditions under government ownership. He points out that no member of Electrical Workers' Union No. 435 is employed by the hydro-electric plant operated by the city of Winnipeg.

"No employe of the city hydro is allowed to join or belong to any labor organization other than the 'company union'," says the Winnipeg unionist. "This rule is known as the 'slave pact.'

"We in Winnipeg are torn between the political ideals of labor for public ownership and the hard facts of wages received under the two conditions of private and public ownership. Moderation seems to be the proper keynote. Public ownership kept out of politics and governed by an independent commission, or private ownership guarded by law from monopolies and false capitalization, or the watering of stock.

"Perhaps the first condition is easier to keep clean than the second; but who is able to say which of the two extremes is the better—public ownership mixed with politics or private ownership which becomes a monopoly?"

LABOR SHOULD KNOW COMPENSATION LAW

Washington, Aug. 11.—Government employes should become acquainted with the Federal workmen's compensation law, says Arch D. Frey, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, writing in the monthly bulletin of that organization.

Cases presented to the department for settlement by navy yard and arsenal workers, said Mr. Frey, indicate that the injured are not fully acquainted with the law.

"In some cases injured workmen have gone to unnecessary expense to have their claims adjusted. In others they have been victimized by the ambulance-chasing fraternity.

"The Federal law provides compensation without intervention of attorneys. All that is necessary is that the injured workman promptly report his injury and see that proper notice of the injury is filed. If the injured workman does not receive prompt reply all that is necessary is a letter to the United States Employes' Compensation Commission, Washington, D. C. Its compensation engineers doctors and hospital bills, though the doctor is expected to be in the government employ and the hospital a government institution.

"It is important that when a worker is injured he should immediately file notice of his injury. Experience has shown that many injuries which seem trivial at the time, result fatally. Other injuries, scarcely giving any trouble when they occur, injure bones or other parts of the body in such a manner that the gravity of the injury does not manifest itself for months and sometimes years afterward."

COMMUNISTS OUSTED; NO ROOM FOR "BORERS"

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 11.—A central body must unseat delegates who declare in favor of Communism.

The A. F. of L. Executive Council authorized this action at its quarterly meeting in this city on an appeal from Cincinnati, Ohio. It is in line with the policy of national and international unions affiliated to the A. F. of L. They are justified on the ground that the purposes and policy of trade unionists and revolutionists have no similarity.

The Executive Council instructed all affiliates to discontinue scholarships with the Brookwood Labor College, at Katonah, N. Y., of which A. J. Muste is the head. This institution claims to be a workers' college, but it extols the views of Sovietism.

WAGE PARLEY FAILS; WANT PAUPER SCALE

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 11.—Miners and coal owners failed to reach a wage agreement, following announcement by the Policy Committee of the international union that the Jacksonville agreement would be replaced by district agreements.

Some Ohio coal owners insist on a "continued competitive feature," whereby successful mine of wages in the anti-union fields of Kentucky and West Virginia will be met by similar reductions in the Ohio Miners' Union.

This is the position that the coal owners have taken during the 16 months' strike.

FAKE WOMEN'S GROUP EXPOSED BY WORKERS

Springfield, Mo., Aug. 11.—The Missouri Committee of Women in Industry, which claims to represent working women in this state, is a fake organization, declared the convention of the Missouri Federation of Labor. The committee is sponsored by the Associated Industries and represents employers and department heads.

EXPERTS WEARY DULUTH

Duluth, Aug. 11.—This city has grown weary of "experts" who have deluged the people with probes, surveys, comprehensive studies and charts.

Editor McEwen of the Labor World suggests that the town has had enough "superchiefs" and that a little work of a constructive character would be appreciated by the community.

Labor's Non-Partisan Program Upheld By A. F. of L. Officials

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 11.—The non-partisan political policy of the A. F. of L. will be continued.

The A. F. of L. executive council reached this decision at its quarterly session in this city. This procedure requires that the platforms of the political parties be compared and the records of candidates studied.

"What such political information is made available," the executive council said, "the individual members of organized labor invariably support candidates for office who are known to be friendly and sympathetic toward the aims and purposes of the A. F. of L., and who enjoy the confidence and esteem of the members and representatives of organized labor.

"The wisdom of such action is apparent when it is considered that the A. F. of L. is composed of men and women who entertain different political opinions. They are not required to become identified with or to support any political party when they become members of the A. F. of L.

In connection with this very important decision the Executive Council is taking into consideration the fact that the candidates of the two great political parties for the presidency of the United States will deliver their speech of acceptance in the month of August. We firmly expect that each of them, in these addresses, will make declarations of great significance to labor. We anticipate that they will express their opinions regarding injunction relief legislation and will amplify the declarations of the platforms of the political parties relating to labor and labor questions. We will await with very great interest the expression of each of the candidates, reserving to ourselves a final decision regarding our future policy during the remainder of the campaign."

The Executive Council instructed the A. F. of L. Non-Partisan Political Committee to forward this information to all affiliates, together with the platforms of the two parties and the records of the two presidential candidates.

"Furthermore, the records of candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives shall be supplied for general information throughout the different States and congressional districts, by the non-partisan committee."

Federal Merchant Marine Policy Opposed By Europe's Ship Men

Washington, Aug. 11.—Senator Fletcher, ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, declares he has private information from abroad that "tremendous propaganda" has been spread in Germany and in England in favor of the United States disposing of its government-operated ships.

"They are apparently planning to acquire them," said Senator Fletcher.

The majority of the Shipping Board, in the opinion of Senator Fletcher, favors ending all ownership and operation of merchant ships by the government, as speedily as possible. This is a mistake from the standpoint of trade and commerce, in the opinion of the Florida lawmaker.

Attention has been repeatedly called to the power of international shipping interests in shaping the merchant marine policy of the United States. Senator Fletcher's statement accords with previous observations by students of this question.

Several years ago Senator Ransdell of Louisiana called attention to contracts between railroads and foreign shipping companies in which the former agreed to assign all export shipments to the foreigners and to give them favored treatment in the form of lower wharfage and other charges.

The foreign vessel owners have led in the fight against the La Follette seamen's law because this act permits seamen on these vessels to quit their employment on arrival at an American port. To secure a competent crew they must pay rates prevailing at the American port.

Much of the cry against an American-owned government merchant marine can be traced to foreign shipping interests who are hooked up with American private interests.

MACHINE CALLED MENACE TO SOUL

New York, Aug. 11.—We no longer have human slavery, but the machine threatens to dominate the soul and to mold it after its own machanistic pattern, declared Rev. Henry D. Frost of Hugenot Memorial Church, Staten Island.

"In this age of the machine and the factory," said the clergyman," the shadow of this Frankenstein that we have made falls across the upward reaching pathway of the race. We are all classified, standardized, regimented while our human life and individuality are stifled and dwarfed. The power of independent thought and fullness of personality are lost, and the age that tends and guides the machine becomes more and more patterned after its image.

"We are tempted to measure human achievement in terms of speed and power, that are properly used for only by our slaves, the material tools that serve the needs of our physical existence."

SENATE MAY OPPOSE WEST APPOINTMENT

Washington, Aug. 11.—Power trust foes in the Senate may contest the President's appointment of Roy O. West of Chicago as Secretary of the Interior to succeed Dr. Hubert Work.

Opposition will be centered on West's connection with the Insull interests, who are fighting Boulder Dam and Muscle Shoals.

When the President informs the Senate of the appointment the matter will be referred to the Committee on Public Lands, if precedent is followed. An adverse report is likely since a majority of this committee in the past has lined up against all that Insull represents.

The "lame duck" Senators, who are defeated at the election, but who will hold office until March 4, are expected to favor the appointment.

COMMUNISTS DIVIDE STRIKERS WHILE ASKING UNIONS FOR AID

New Bedford, Mass., Aug. 11.—Communists have brought turmoil among 28,000 striking textile workers. When the strike started, an organization dual to the legitimate United Textile Workers was functioning. The outsiders fused with the regular union.

The mills were picketed and the owners failed to induce strikers to accept a 10 per cent wage reduction and return to work. The strike now is settled—directed by the Textile Council.

The Communists, headed by Albert Weisbord, appeared on the scene and organized the Textile Mill Committees. Weisbord had charge of the Passaic strike until these workers affiliated with the United Textile Workers. He is now the Communists' candidate for United States Senator from New Jersey.

The mills were tied up 100 per cent, but Weisbord and his crowd "wanted better." And they fired the imagination of many strikers who came from Southern Europe. Children were placed on the picket line and bullyine tactics resulted in numerous conflicts with the police and wholesale arrests.

The public sympathized with the strikers, but the policy of the "reds" is to goad public officials to take repressive measures that can then be capitalized.

This policy is satisfactory to the mill owners whose first interest is to have unionism destroyed. The deplorable conditions of the textile industry justifies them in shutting down, if they can gain their double objective of lowering wages and smashing the union. The Communists are aiding them by attempting to turn public opinion against the strikers.

The Communists are appealing to the trade union movement for funds to aid the employers.

These appeals are issued by the "Workers' International Relief of New Bedford Strikers, office 49 Williams Street, New Bedford, Mass."

FLAG DOESN'T PROTECT WRONG DOING ABROAD

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 11.—"An American visiting a foreign country has no right to violate the laws of that country," said Professor E. M. Borchard of Yale University, at the Institute of Politics.

Professor Borchard is an authority on international law. He disagrees with President Coolidge's recent statement that the American citizen and his property abroad are "a part of the national domain."

Dr. Borchard characterized this as "an unfortunate approach" and "capable of misinterpretation."

"Too many of our citizens have an idea that when they go abroad they 'carry the flag with them' and can do more or less as they please without regard to local law. As a matter of fact it is up to the alien visiting in a country to live up to the laws of that country; and if he refuses to do so, the burden of proof is on him to show that the local law violates international law. This burden is extremely difficult to sustain."

From the standpoint of international law, continued Dr. Borchard, it would be more exact to say that a citizen of the United States in a foreign country is subject to the local law of that country except insofar as local law conflicts with the principles of international law.

"Not that Mr. Coolidge's terminology is incorrect," added Professor Borchard, "but merely that it is perhaps too general and likely to convey the wrong impression of the American attitude to foreign nations. It is a question of the proper approach."

FAVOR SIX-DAY WEEK

Denver, Aug. 11.—The State Industrial Commission has ruled in favor of a six-day week for culinary workers in Colorado Springs.